

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP
1300 North Seventeenth Street
Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Phone: (703) 312-6600
Facsimile: (703) 312-6666
E-Mail: pskwierawski@antonelli.com

DRAFT

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703-746-5020

Name

Bradley L. Sisson

Company

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Re

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From: Paul J. Skwierawski, Direct Dial 703-312-6636

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Examiner Sisson:

I've revised independent claim 1 in view of our discussions, in an attempt to improve a clarity of such claim. Please review and provide return comments (tel: 703-312-6636 or fax 703-312-6666) as to whether such claim would overcome the 112, 2nd paragraph and 101 rejections/concerns. Any help (e.g., via markups to the claim) which you could give if needed to overcome the 112, 2nd paragraph and 101 rejections/concerns would be greatly appreciated and helpful to advance prosecution. Once we've come to agreement on an acceptably amended base claim, I should be able to get the client's approval within a day or two, whereupon I would similarly amend/adjust the other claims and file another amendment. Thanks in advance for all considerations.

Paul

1. (Currently Amended) A method of inspecting a DNA chip that includes a plurality of DNA probe cells having a DNA probe to which fluorescently labeled target DNA may hybridize, ones of the cells being of a microscopic dimensional size D, where DNA probes are arranged in a predetermined array, which is obtained by hybridizing a target with DNA,
 5 said target being obtained by adding a desired fluorescent material to a DNA fragment formed by preprocessing from DNA that is an object to be inspected, said DNA chip including a plurality of L cells that are microscopic areas where a plurality of types of desired fragments are arranged in
 10 accordance with a predetermined rule, comprising:

simultaneously irradiating a plurality of the cells of said DNA chip with a corresponding plurality of multi-spot excitation lights simultaneously through an objective lens for a time τ that is longer than a fluorescent light attenuation time so as to generate fluorescent lights from any fluorescently
 15 labeled target DNA hybridized to ones of the DNA probes of the plurality of cells, said DNA chip, where each light of said multi-spot excitation lights having a spot diameter d that is smaller than a dimension the dimensional size D of a cell that it irradiates, said each cell of said plurality of L cells,

dividing an optical pass of said generated fluorescent lights from said
 20 multi-spot excitation lights into separate fluorescent lights along separate optical paths,

detecting said separate fluorescent lights with a sensor after reducing components of said multi-spot excitation lights reflected from said DNA chip, and entered into said optical pass of said generated fluorescent lights, and

1) claim is to a method of inspecting a chip, not detecting by hybridized array to diff.
 2) Method does not require that chip be exposed to any array to... nothing to detect.
 3) Semi-colons after each step.
 4) ~~detecting~~

~~getting information on so as to catalog~~ positions and intensities of said
detected fluorescent lights ~~so as to enable measurement~~ which are
representative of a coupled state of the hybridized target DNA on said DNA
chip.